

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

To allow a gaming machine with a ~~virtually unlimited~~ an infinite number of display symbols, game manufacturer's have utilized flat, rigid panel displays, (i.e., liquid crystal displays ("LCDs"), or light emitting diode ("LED") displays) similar to a display of a computer screen. By utilizing a rigid display panel, a computer processor is able to create, display, manipulate and control a "virtual slot machine" without any mechanical spinning reels, further allowing for a ~~virtually unlimited~~ an infinite number of possible symbol displays and increased payouts. However, while the use of the virtual slot machine has proven popular in today's personal computer market, it has not met with much success in casinos, as a slot machine player desires the visual stimulation, and excitement of a traditional, spinning reel slot machine.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Turning to FIG. 2, there is depicted a slot machine reel 40 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. As illustrated, the reel 40 may include a flexible display panel 42 mounted to an outer circumference 44 of an internal or supporting portion 46 of reel 40. The flexible display panel 42 may be a LCD panel, or a LED display panel capable of being shaped to mount to the outer circumference 44 of reel 40. The flexible display panel 42 may be further capable of displaying a ~~virtually unlimited~~ an infinite number of possible indicia relevant to game play. The flexible display panel 42 may be a panel having at least one flexible portion which allows the flexible display panel to be bent, without sharp angles, and yet still maintain the display quality associated with well known, non-flexible LCD or LED display panels. One example of a flexible display panel 42 is a LCD panel described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,016,176 to Kim et al. Another example of a flexible display panel 42 is a Flexible Organic Light Emitting Device ("FOLED") developed by Universal Display Corporation, Ewing, N.J. The slot machine reel 40 may further include one or more integrated circuits 48 which process appropriate data to control display of the various indicia.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Once the controller 80 recognizes that the user has deposited value, the user may make a wager using the buttons 30, 32, 34 at a block 106. By using the buttons 30, 32, 34 the user may wager various units of value on the outcome of the game. The controller 80 may then determine the game play indicia for each reel 14, 16, 18 at a block 108. It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the controller 80 may be programmed to determine ~~a virtually unlimited~~ an infinite variety of game play indicia and furthermore, the criteria for determining the indicia may be based upon any criteria. For example, game play indicia may be themed to a particular casino, gaming machine, gaming area, and/or game show, and the indicia may be further chosen based upon the amount of value inserted by the user. Furthermore, the controller 80 may be programmed to dynamically change the chosen indicia before, during or after game play to offer the user a unique game play experience. Once the game play indicia is determined, at a block 110, the controller 80 may instruct the display driver 50 to display the game play indicia on the flexible display panel 42 associated with each of the reels 14, 16, 18. The user may then begin a game play, at a block 112, either by pulling the arm 26 or by depressing the spin button 28, either of which causes the slot machine 10 to spin the reels 14, 16, 18 for a period of time.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A gaming machine, specifically a slot machine, having a viewing region through which one or more internal reels are visible. The internal reels having a flexible display, mounted on the outer circumferential region of the reel, capable of displaying ~~a virtually unlimited~~ an infinite number of different indicia to a player of the machine. By allowing ~~a virtually unlimited~~ an infinite number of indicia to be displayed, the gaming machine may be programmed with a variety of gaming options and payouts.